

Abstract

A method for operating an internal combustion engine having a fuel pump with a drive shaft is provided, the fuel pump conveying fuel into at least one fuel-collection line, the fuel being subsequently conveyed to at least one combustion chamber via at least one fuel-injection device. In the method, a quantity of the fuel conveyed by the fuel pump into the fuel-collection line is set by means of a valve device. The valve device is configured to selectively connect a discharge side of the fuel pump to a low-pressure region of the fuel pump (during deactivation phase), and selectively disconnect the discharge side from the low-pressure region (during supply phase). In supplying the quantity of fuel, a supply rate, defined as the number of supply phases of the fuel pump per rotation of the drive shaft, is determined as a function of at least one operating parameter of the internal combustion engine.